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Doctor WHOO

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ACE JOINS THE SEVENTH DOCTOR - INSIDE!



PLUS

**BATTLE FOR THE UNIVERSE
TWENTY GAMES MUST BE WON!**

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THE KNIGHTS OF ENDRAGON

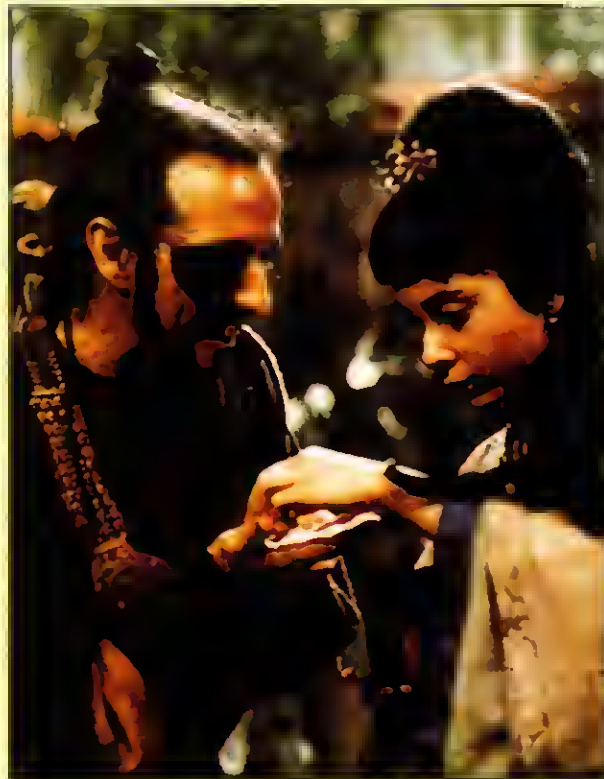
WHEN THE PAST COMES TO THE
PRESENT TO SAVE THE FUTURE. . .

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By **DAN ABNETT & JOHN TOMLINSON** Drawn by **GARY ERSKINE & ANDY LANNING** Covers by **ALAN DAVIS**

COMING IN JUNE FROM MARVEL COMICS



"I think perhaps your logic is wearing a little thin . . ."
 The Doctor, *The Tomb of the Cybermen*

In recent months, many of our interviewees have had plenty to say on the future of the programme, but no one has given us the real lowdown. While we're still waiting for full details, **DWM** readers shouldn't get too dispirited. We do know the show will be back, if not when. There's plenty of new material being released, from the **Target** books to **BBC Videos**. Although nothing compares with new television stories, repeats continue to be shown worldwide. *Doctor Who* is not dead.

DWM will continue to dip into as many aspects of the programme – past, present and future – as we can. In response to your requests, we'll also be keeping things as varied and as exciting as possible. Plus, the next few months will see plenty of new text and comic strip stories featuring the Seventh Doctor and Ace. What could be more logical?

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The Dragon. Photo © BBC 4

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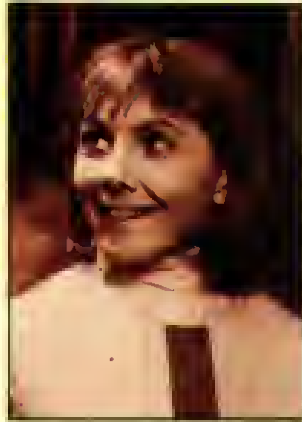
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Thanks this issue to: Crystal Palace parks administration offices, The Games Team, John Ainsworth, David Bishop, Sophie Aldred, Mediaband, Barry Newbery and John Lucarotti.

On the cover: Sophie Aldred as Ace. Photo by Steve Cook. Photographed at Crystal Palace Park, London.

Doctor Who? by Tim Quinn and Dicky Howett

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3 It's Friday! It's 5 to 5! It's CRACKERJACK!



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FILM STILL GO . . .

Press reports in the United States on the start date for the *Doctor Who* film have proven a little premature (see last issue). The project is still in preparation, but the director, distributor and main cast still have yet to be decided.

Commenting on the project at the end of April, co-producer Peter Litten estimated it might cost between £10-30 million to realise. "Clearly there has been a delay . . . we have to consider both American and European markets." He explained that those companies he had spoken to had intended to alter the Doctor's character to fit their marketing ideas. Due to the agreements with the BBC to keep the movie version true to its tv counterpart, this inevitably made progress difficult. "It wouldn't have been *Doctor Who*, it would have ended up being something else," Peter said - an ideal everyone can sympathise with.

He's still searching for a 'star actor' in the title role and, as such, a performer " . . . can command anything up to £12 million." As reported in *DWM* Issue 152 a thirteen week principal shoot is planned but Yugoslavia, like many European locations, is still only a consideration. Additionally the production, for performance and effects reasons, may comprise as many as five film units.

The 'Bar scene' synonymous with the Donald Sutherland newspaper stories last year is, unsurprisingly, fictitious. The actual set is an alien casino. The Doctor will have more than one companion and though specifics are "firmly under wraps" we can reveal one will be an Earth youth.

Negotiations and casting are still uncertain as of going to press but the project is going ahead. BBC Enterprises are already gearing up to licence merchandise from the film and *DWM* will bring you news as soon as we get it.

Elsewhere, the film featuring a time travelling American telephone box - *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure* - is doing good business at the box office in Britain, following a successful run in the United States. We wonder where they got the idea from . . .

Mark Duncan

SEVENTH DOCTOR, ACE AND K9 TEAM-UP?

Despite previous announcements, there is still no news on the future of Doctor Who, so Season Twenty-Seven still looks a long way off. However, while the next season seems distant, the Seventh Doctor and Ace are making a short return to British screens in November, as part of a new BBC Schools series.

Sylvester McCoy and Sophie Aldred will reprise their *Who* roles in a twenty minute, all film episode called *Search out Space*, part of a twenty episode *Search out Science* series aimed at educating nine to eleven year olds. In an extra twist, the episode will also include a new version of that mechanical beast, K9.

K9, who last appeared in *Doctor Who* in *The Five Doc-*

tors, will retain the same shape but will possibly be given a green coat of paint - Dapol must be clapping their hands with delight! K9's internal workings are being re-designed by Mat Irvine.

Neither Sylvester, Sophie or K9 will meet in the programme. Although they all appear in character this is a special educational programme, not a mini-*Doctor Who* adventure.

Work on the programme included one day's location recording and *Search out Space* will be transmitted on the 21st November 1990, with a repeat on 28th.

SYLVESTER TEMPTED INTO STARRING ROLE

Sylvester McCoy has gained the starring role as Doctor Foster in *Temptation*, a play

based on the Faust legend. The play, which should prove to have more than a touch of the macabre, began previews on 29th May and opened on 6th June at the Westminster Theatre, London. It's scheduled to run until December 1st. Sylvester, speaking at the Cafe Munchen *Who* signing in April, was delighted to get the part.

Sylvester has been keeping busy with convention appearances, television work and more which have kept him very much in the public eye. One of the more unusual jobs he's had recently was the recording of an audio-visual display featuring the Seventh Doctor for the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation, as reported last issue. The display at the Festival of Creativity and Imagination Dome features a mock up of the TARDIS Control Room and includes *Who* monsters such as the *Dragonfire* Biomechanoid, Daleks, Cybermen, a Mandrell (from *The Nightmare of Eden*), Sil, Kiv and a Vervoid. Sylvester recorded the audio-visual history (and projected future) of Tyne and Wear 'in character', opening the entire exhibition in May, which will run until 21st October.

REMEMBRANCE OUT AT LAST

W.H. Allen's move to new offices delayed the release of the eagerly awaited *Remembrance of the Daleks* until this month. However, the rest of the book schedule seems to be on course and books editor Peter Darvill-Evans has agreed an outline format for the new *Doctor Who* fiction with John Nathan-Turner. The first of these books are scheduled to be released in 1991.

W.H. Allen's new address is: 26 Grand Union Centre, 338 Ladbrooke Grove, London W10 5AH. Enclose a stamped addressed envelope or International Money Order with any queries. Off the Shelf, Page 17.

LONGLEAT EXHIBITION ON

The *Doctor Who* Longleat Exhibition is up and running once again, and was recently the focus for a special British Satellite Broadcasting show - featuring interviews with John Nathan-Turner, Nicholas Courtney and several *Who* fans. That show will be part of BSB's extra *Who* programming this year, which we'll ▶



VIDEOS: PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE

Alistair Pearson has completed his new covers for the BBC Video United Kingdom re-releases of *The Brain of Morbius* and *The Five Doctors*. The provisional schedule for 1990 is now (asterisk denotes two tape set): *The Five Doctors*, *The Brain of Morbius* - July; *The Dominators*, *The Web Planet** - October.

A very tentative schedule for 1991 hopes to include: *The Deadly Assassin*, *The Krotons*, *The Keys of Marinus**, *City of Death*, *The Masque of Mandragora*, *The Mutants**, *Robot* and *The Claws of Axos*. At this stage, it seems BBC Enterprises are maintaining their policy of releasing older shows with the last three Doctors still waiting for major video exposure. Video Reviews, Page 17.

◀ have more details on next issue.

The exhibition, now in its seventeenth year of operation this year, attracted more visitors than any other Easter in its history. Our full report also appears next issue.



SIGNING SUCCESS

Sylvester McCoy, Sophie Aldred and David Banks led a second successful *Doctor Who* signing at the Cafe Munchen in London in April, the final date of the *Abslom Daak - Dalek Killer* tour. The signing also saw the launch of Metro Music's square CD of *Variations on a Theme* - a world first. Although there was still no news on the future of the show, both Sylvester and Sophie happily signed autographs for over seven hundred fans, some of whom queued for several hours to meet the stars in very sunny weather. Both actors appeared frustrated not knowing the future of the show, but Sylvester was pleased to tell people he'd just gained the starring role in *Temptation*, while Sophie continues her run on *Daisy Pulls It Off* into June. The line up included show musicians Dominic Glynn, Keff McCulloch and Mark Ayres, along with DWM artists David Lloyd, Lee Sullivan and Alister Pearson, plus writer John Tomlinson. The event was co-organised by Forbidden Planet, Mediaband, Silver Fist and Marvel and the success of the last two events means that the signings will probably become an annual event. The winner of the On the Spot Competition was Blain Clough, who won special copies of recent pin-ups from DWM, a square CD and *Abslom Daak* T-shirt.

MERCHANDISE UPDATE

Dapoi have withdrawn models of the two handed Davros which went on sale in April at the request of BBC Enterprises, who pointed out that

Davros has only one hand. A new model has now been issued and is on sale, making the small number of two handed Davros's released a collector's item.

Dapol Manager David Boyle explained that the toy trade had seen their original test shots of Davros and wrongly assumed the single armed model was a moulding error, hence the initial release with two arms. "We're making a range of toys based on *Doctor Who* - if we wanted to make fully detailed models we could do that," he said, citing the popular range of railway models Dapol also make as evidence for this.

With Ace - recently released - and Tom Baker's Doctor still in the pipeline, the uncertainty over the future of the show will probably delay further additions to the range.

Battle for the Universe goes on sale this month and we review this new Games Team release below.

Black Light, the compilation tape of *Doctor Who* music by Dominic Glynn, has been re-released: The tape features music from *The Mysterious Planet*, *The Ultimate Foe* and *Dragonfire* and costs just \$6.49 (including postage and VAT) and is available from Julian Knott, 44 Chiltern Park Avenue, Birkhamsted, Herts. HP4 1EX. Cheques, postal orders etc, should be made payable to Julian Knott.

The Variations on a Theme square CD is available in the United States. It costs \$22 per disc (plus \$3 postage) and is available from The Friends of *Doctor Who*, PO Box 943, Conshohocken PA 19428 USA.

BEYOND THE TARDIS

Daisy Pulls it Off continues to run on tour with Sophie Aldred in the lead role. Dates are as follows: June 11th, Grand Opera House, Belfast [(0232) 241919]; June 19th, Torch, Milford Haven [(064 62) 5267]. Also in the cast is Sarah Prince who played Karuna in *Kinda*, almost a decade ago.

Fresh from the success of *A Cry in the Dark* Verity Lambert is to be executive producer of *It's Now or Never*, a new film to be set in a small Australian coastal town in 1959 where two young swimmers are training for the Olympic Games in Rome. The film's being directed by Paul J. Hogan. Verity was previously quoted as saying she wanted to concentrate on domestic tv

WHO'S AMERICA!

Fandom is alive and kicking in the United States, boosted by events such as the I-Con convention in New York. Sylvester McCoy entertained fans at that event in April, with attendance exceeding the organisers' expectations. He's also tentatively expected to be appearing at *A British Television Celebration* between November 23rd and 25th, along with Sophie Aldred and Fraser Hines. Contact Her Majesty's Entertainment, PO Box 34484, Chicago Illinois 60634-0484 USA for further details.

Jon Pertwee and John Nathan-Turner were also expected in America at a convention in Los Angeles between May 26th-28th. We hope to bring you a report on that in **Issue 164**.

Syndication of *Doctor Who* in America is still handled by Lionheart Television and although the programme is expensive for Public Broadcasting stations (which don't carry commercials), some fan groups have been successful in convincing their cities to carry the show. They've even persuaded them to bring it back after its cancellation. American fans are tenacious!

Several enthusiastic clubs across the country are leading the way in providing news and information to fans, as interest in the programme continues. Here's just a few of them for our growing number of US readers, thanks to Marvel US distribution of DWM:-

The Whossier Network is one of the fastest-growing *Doctor Who* clubs in the United States. Hot on the heels of helping The Friends of the Doctor promote and run their Tom Baker/Sophie Aldred event back in March (see **Issue 161**), Who-net screened its video tapes of the panels for members. Who-net has also extended its services to include a catalogue of the largest selection of licensed *Who* merchandise in the world. Contact: Who-Net, PO Box 51133, Indianapolis IN 46251.

The Prydonians of Prynceton is the largest *Who* fan club in the Eastern half of America, which scored a triumph at *At Day with the Doctor* with their *Doctor Who in the Eighties* panel. Upcoming plans include their annual club picnic. Contact: Prydonians, PO Box 3194, Princeton, NJ 08543-3194.

Elisabeth Sladen Information Network is a new club recently organised to promote interest in this popular *Who* companion. Contact: Kevin Parker, 3-E Ridge Road, Greenbelt MD 20770-1969.

◆
Mark Gasper

CONVENTIONS

Carousel 30th June - 1st July Holiday Inn, Cardiff, Wales. £20 for two days, £10 for one. So far (all work permitting): Peter Davison, Nicholas Courtney, Lee Sullivan. Details: Carousel '90, 76 Thwaite Street, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria LA14 1AN.

production rather than feature films. She'll be giving a keynote McTaggart Lecture to this year's Edinburgh Television Festival at the end of August.

The Aztecs director John Davies is working on another P.D. James mystery for Anglia TV in which Roy Marsden will reprise the role of detective Adam Dalgliesh.

Mark Ayres, who wrote the incidental music for *Ghost Light* and *The Curse of Fenric* last season has written the music for two computer graphics animation show-piece videos entitled *The Conquest of Form* and *The Evolution of Form*. These will be part of an Arnolfini Touring Exhibition of the work of computer artist William Latham at the Natural History Museum in London from 16th June. The exhibition is sponsored by IBM.

The Channel Four magazine show *Boom!* which featured Tom Baker as a narrator has been given the green light for a second series, provisionally scheduled for transmission in early 1991. Whether Tom or the imitable Basil Brush, who also made an appearance, will return to the show has yet to be decided.

Finally, it is sad to report the deaths of two *Doctor Who* walk-ons. Jean Healey appeared in *Terminus* with the Fifth Doctor, while James O'Neill took part in both *The Invasion of Time* and *The Androids of Tara* with Tom Baker.

◆
Reporters this issue: Mark Duncan, John Freeman, Mark Gasper, Dominic May, with thanks to Richard Hollis and John Nathan-Turner.

INTO BATTLE



Battle for the Universe from the Games Team is not the first board game to be derived from *Doctor Who*, and it probably won't be the last. It's a fun, fast-paced challenge-based board game, pitting the Doctor against three of his deadliest foes - Davros, the Master and the Cyber Controller.

Comprising of a colourful board, thirty-two character cards, eight playing pieces and that all-important die, the aim is to be the winner of various battles against your foes, finally becoming controller of the Universe. Players build up teams and collect allies as they progress around the board, which comprises of three interlocking circles.

On certain Battle Zone squares, or by landing on the same square as another player, they can engage in combat. The outcome of that depends on the troops involved in the battle, the troops' skill with a certain weapon (indicated by scores on the character cards) and what weapon he's used in combat, decided by die roll on a separate combat circle. Battle is fought with such weapons as the Magic Recorder, the Time Destructor and Jelly Babies - yes, The Fourth Doctor's legacy still lingers! This circle also has two pitfall squares which can bring disaster to a player's fighting plans. The Black Hole is particularly devastating, wiping out all committed forces in a particular battle if the player lands on it, never to return to the game. Coming in an eye-catching box *Battle for the Universe* has several advantages over its immediate Games Workshop predecessor. It doesn't take ages to prepare for the game and the rules are fairly simple. On initial playing, the balance between skill and dice-throwing luck also seem to be well balanced, giving all players an opportunity to win.

The Doctor may seem to have an unfair advantage with four regenerations to play with (twelve could make the game stretch out forever!) but he suffers from being unable to use any allies except his companions - Ace, K9, Tegan and Romana. Since these have to be collected along the way and can be captured by other players - just as the Doctor can capture Ice Warriors, Daleks or renegade Time Lords - the Doctor is really up against a deadly array of foes, who can rapidly build up their army.

The Doctor does have the advantage that his initial skill scores can be added to any of the weapons scores on the combat circle (except the pitfall squares). He's also the only main character who can't be killed outright (unless on his final regeneration) by the deadly Black Hole pitfall, which can wipe out the best of your fighting characters faster than you can say, "Gosh, I hope I don't roll a One...". However, it's soon obvious that the best way to despatch the Doctor is to gang up on the Time Lord player early on before fighting the other players. This may sound unfair, but having the Daleks finally defeat the Doctor can bring a smile to the face of even the nicest of players...

Battle for the Universe is let down by some of the character illustrations, which in certain cases are nothing like their tv counterparts. This may be fine for the non-*Doctor Who* fan but licencees must realise by now just how much of their bedrock potential market are fans, with a discerning eye for accuracy. As it is, even the most ill-informed would be hard put to recognise some of the characters from their illustration.

Given the variety of *Doctor Who* and the number of themes and storylines running through it, it would also be refreshing to see some of them used in a more challenging game format. Obviously, this was never the aim for *Battle for the Universe* since it's intended for the mass market, just like the Games Team's previous release, *A Question of Sport*. Still, I'd welcome the re-appearance of some form of role-playing game based on the show which really challenged a player's gaming and logical skills on several levels.

These points aside, *Battle for the Universe* is extremely playable - those of us who tested it wouldn't rest until we'd all played and won! The game dynamics have been well thought out and apart from the illustrations it's a worthy addition to merchandise already on the market. Recommended!

Battle for the Universe, assessed on a One-to-Five scale:

Complexity:	★
Design:	★★★
Play Value:	★★★★
Value for Money:	★★★
As an item of <i>Doctor Who</i> merchandise:	★★

Play Test Team: Gary Russell, John Ainsworth, John Freeman and David Bishop. **Review by** John Freeman.

Now you've read our *Battle for the Universe* review, here's your chance to win the game and make your own judgements! It costs £12.99 in the shops but we have TWENTY sets to give away, courtesy of The Games Team.

Once again, all you have to do is answer the following questions on our special voucher and send the completed voucher to *The Battle for the Universe Competition*, *Doctor Who Magazine*, Marvel Comics Ltd., Arundel House, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DX. Entries MUST be received by 20th August 1990 and the Editor's decision is final. Copies of the entry form are acceptable if you don't want to spoil your Magazine.

Name the Time Lord who masterminded the games in *The Five Doctors*.

Excluding *The Curse of Fenric*, name a *Doctor Who* story to feature a game of chess on screen.

What game did the First Doctor play, and lose, in *Marco Polo*?

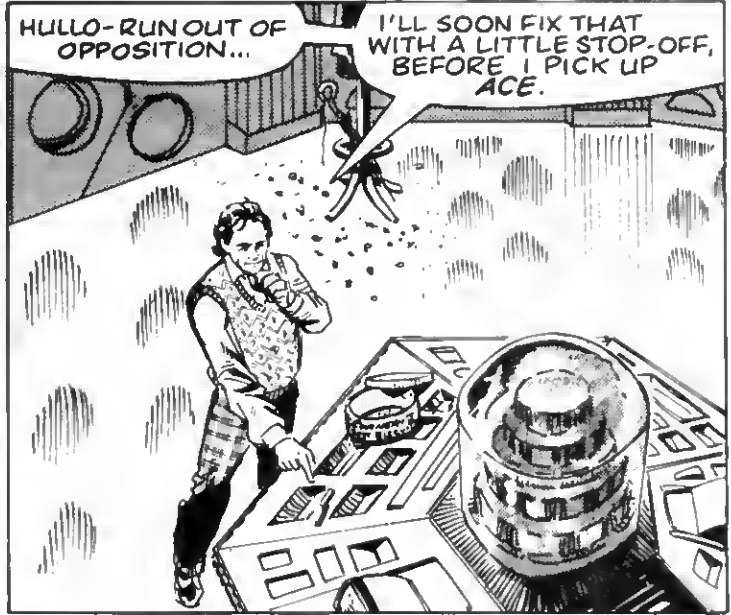
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Address

Age.....

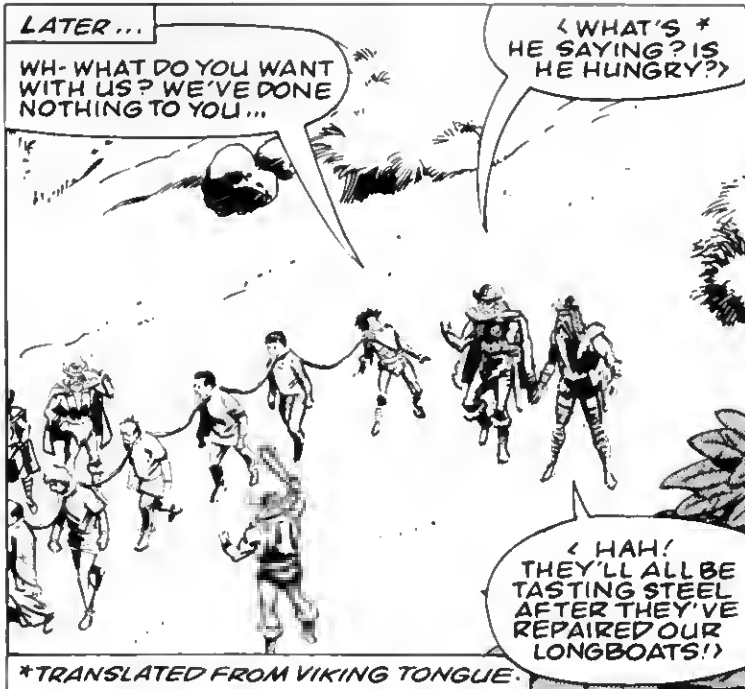
"Found my Five Hundred Year Diary at last... the Katik menace is over but I feel distracted by recent events. I must find a way to concentrate..."

The Doctor



SCRIPT: IAN RIMMER ART: MIKE COLLINS LETTERS: HEL EDITOR: SEDDON/FREEMAN





LATER ...

WH- WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH US? WE'VE DONE NOTHING TO YOU ...

< WHAT'S * HE SAYING? IS HE HUNGRY? >

< HAH! THEY'LL ALL BE TASTING STEEL AFTER THEY'VE REPAIRED OUR LONGBOATS! >

*TRANSLATED FROM VIKING TONGUE.



PLEASE - WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT US HERE?

< THIS ONE'S WHINING IS GETTING ON MY NERVES! WE'VE GOT PLENTY - WE CAN DO WITH- OUT... >

< OLAF - LOOK! >



< "IT'S OUR LONGBOATS!" >



< SAVE WHAT YOU CAN, ALL OF YOU! I'LL KEEP THIS LOT QUIET...? >



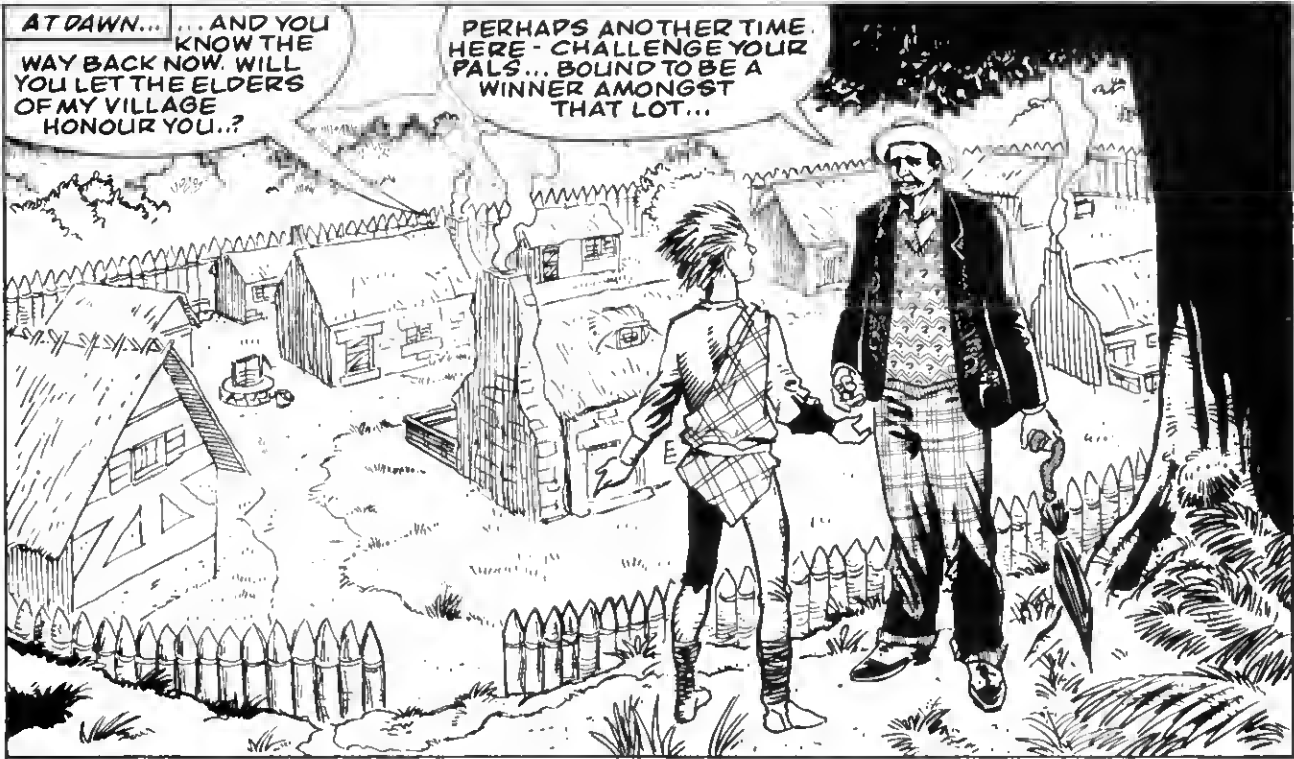
< ... ESPECIALLY YOU, YOU MISERABLE LITTLE PUP! HUH!? WHAT...? >

EXCUSE ME... OLAF, ISN'T IT?



ON FOR A GAME OF CONKERS, BY ANY CHANCE?





AT DAWN... AND YOU KNOW THE WAY BACK NOW. WILL YOU LET THE ELDERS OF MY VILLAGE HONOUR YOU..?

PERHAPS ANOTHER TIME. HERE - CHALLENGE YOUR PALS... BOUND TO BE A WINNER AMONGST THAT LOT...



ACE JOINS THE DOCTOR ON PAGE 30



Travelling Companions



Photo © BBC.

Vicki

The departure of the Doctor's grand-daughter Susan at the end of 1964, Vicki's rescue at the start of 1965 was the first regular cast change for *Doctor Who*. Today, such a change is a common occurrence, but back in 1964 it was a gamble. Because of this, Vicki was a character not too far removed from Susan's. Producer Verity Lambert did not want to take any large risks with the popular but young programme.

Stranded and orphaned on the planet Dido with Bennett, a murderer with a fetish for fancy dress, Vicki was invited to join the TARDIS crew after the Koquillion's unmasking and subsequent death. She accepted, seeing nothing promising or secure in store for her back on Twenty-Fifth century Earth. The Doctor was overjoyed, as were Ian and Barbara, since this meant the loss of Susan would be easier to bear.

From their first meeting, Vicki found the Doctor both reassuring and a comfort. At moments like this, the First Doctor's charm and innate kindness shone through his irascibility and impatience:

"Of course I like the Doctor. He has such a kind face, stern but gentle too. You can sense that he is extremely clever."

"I can see that you're quite taken with the Doctor."

"Strange, but as soon as he walked in here I knew that I could trust him. But tell me, why does he wear such peculiar clothes and that long white hair?"

Vicki and Ian, *The Rescue*

Vicki's relationship with Ian and Barbara took a bit longer to become established. In her histrionic and paranoid state caused by the crash and Koquillion, she seemed to look upon the teachers as some sort of threat. The Doctor had a hard task convincing her that they were most trustworthy.

Essentially, Vicki's character was a bright, intelligent teenager from the future, but that was rarely seen during her travels in the TARDIS. More often than not, she was seen as a weak, highly-strung girl who was only capable of following instead of using her own mind. *The Rescue* had Vicki at her most histrionic, while *The Romans* had her accompanying the Doctor to Rome and screaming a lot. *The Web Planet* maintained the pattern and in *The Crusade* Vicki posed as the Doctor's page, not doing much else.

Accordingly, Ian and Barbara, who always had the most to do, tended to treat Vicki in a condescending manner, and the Doctor, in his fondness for her, tended to be overprotective. This is probably most obvious in the first episode of *The Web Planet*, where Ian and Barbara keep packing Vicki off to her room to rest. At this early stage, writer Bill Strutton just didn't seem to know what to do with her. One wonders if Susan would have been treated in the same way if it were she in the TARDIS.

This seemed to be the biggest problem with Vicki – she just wasn't as interesting as Susan. Her background as an orphan and her plight were well set up, and she was from the Twenty-Fifth century, but beyond that she was a carbon copy of Susan. Only the girlish enthusiasm and passion for screaming were kept intact.

Vicki wasn't totally devoid of her own character, and two of her traits were used and developed during her time in the TARDIS. One was her ability to give animals and robots cutesy names. Perhaps this was an effort to familiarize them; she named the Sand Creature on Dido 'Sandy', the gold necklet-controlled Zarbi 'Zombo', and the Rill's robots 'Chumbliels'. Perhaps, also, this made them easier for her to cope with.

Also utilized was the temporal difference between Vicki, Ian and Barbara. Vicki's knowledge was obviously superior to the Twentieth century teachers', and this led to a few misunderstandings. In *The Web Planet* Vicki assumed that Barbara taught history at nursery school, because she had taken degrees

in Medicine, Physics and Chemistry by the time she was ten. She was positively smug in *The Space Museum* when she understood time dimensions, and Ian didn't. Both of these traits were often used to fill out Vicki's character and give her humour, but on occasion they were just irritating.

Despite Ian and Barbara's overshadowing presence, Vicki did have her moments. She managed to pretend to be under the Animus' control and then free herself and the Doctor in *The Web Planet*; she virtually led the Xeron revolution in *The Space Museum*; stranded in the House of Horrors, she smuggled herself into the Dalek time machine before its trip to Mechanus in *The Chase*, and she quickly had to talk her way out of execution in *The Myth Makers*. Vicki tended to rely on the others to make decisions for her, and only had the chance to show initiative when the group had been separated.

When Ian and Barbara left and Steven arrived the situation changed totally. Vicki began to show a bit more confidence, and actually enjoyed Steven's disbelief of the TARDIS. Soon she established a friendly rivalry with Steven and was treated more or less as an equal. Being a seasoned TARDIS traveller, she expected some respect from Steven who in turn demanded some respect back. This often led to bickering, and was perhaps most evident in Vicki's last story, *The Myth Makers*.

In keeping with the farcical tone of *The Myth Makers*, Vicki's departure was highly improbable. Renamed Cressida by King Priam of Troy, Vicki decided to stay in Troy with Troilus, and therefore create the romance missing from Greek legends, but present in Medieval storytelling. Yet according to these legends, Cressida leaves Troilus for Diomedes the Greek – the identity Steven took on in Ancient Troy. Perhaps Vicki's departure was hastily worked into the end in the same way Leela's was in *The Invasion of Time* eleven years later. At the same time, Vicki managed to resume her life on Earth some three thousand years before she was born, and became the very person she'd read about in her youth.

Maureen O'Brien took a rest from her work at the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool to work on *Doctor Who*, and unfortunately was not enamoured by her role, or the publicity she received. She became frustrated with the scripts and she resented the loss of privacy that went with being a 'Doctor Who girl'. Since leaving, Maureen has had a successful and varied career in theatre, television and radio. A few years ago, she appeared on the *Children in Need* appeal along with Peter Purves, Carole Ann Ford and Patrick Troughton.

Vicki will always be a well-remembered character basically because of the popularity of the programme at that time but unfortunately not because of any strength in her character. With a bit more imagination and daring, Vicki could have been a much more interesting and dynamic Companion.

Tim Hunter

MEDIABAND

Available now the latest photographs by Steve Cook from the Mediaband photo library



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COMPETITION WINNERS!

A host of names here, so let's get down to it. Back in Issue 157, we ran a True or False quiz to win CDs of *Variations on a Theme*, plus copies of the last two Cyber tapes from Silver Fist. The Cybermen are not completely robotic – they are cyborgs, combinations of 'man' and machine. Ron Grainer did write the first theme music and the Cybermen planted a Z-Bomb, not a O-8omb at the South Pole in *The Tenth Planet*. The winners were: Mark Finley, 323 Parkgate Road, Chester, Cheshire; Mr A.R. Hasley, 6 Stuart Road, Barking, Essex; David Hutchins, PO Box 194, College Station, TX 77841, USA; Ben Jones, Brook House, 8fuebridge Road, Brookman's Park, Herts; David Krupfa IV, 18E High Street, Jeffersonville, Ohio 4312B, USA; Cheryl Parker, 3725 Elston, Chicago, IL6061B, USA; James Read, 26 Lathom Road, Southport, Merseyside; Bob Schaefer, 5347 Biaco Apt #7, San Antonio, TX 78216, USA; Chrissy Surreco, 3706 N. Troy #2, Chicago, IL 6061B USA; and Steve Swinburn, 10 Southgate Road, Sunnybank Bury, Lancs.

BBC Video Winners Issue 158: Many, but by no means all the entrants were caught by our trick first question. Peter Brachakl of course is the credited designer of the episode *An Unearthly Child*. Barry Newbery took over for the first story when he fell ill. The time machine supplied by the War Chief were *StDRATS* and David Maloney directed *The War Games*.

The War Games tape winners were: Robert Blackham, 46 Auckland Road, Ilford; Paul Harrington, 16 Denbigh Close, Hornchurch, Essex; Nell Moss, Felrways, Golf Club Drive, Kingsforn, Surrey; Simon Nash, 1 Russeil Crescent, Maulden, Beds.; Dylan Parry, Ty Capel, Caerhun, Bangor, Gwynedd, North Wales; Howard K. Robinson, 22 April Close, Bitterne, Southampton, Hants.; Joseph Craig Rowlands, 41, Heath Avenue, Lower Broughton, Salford; Dwlnder 5Ingh, Glynn House, Wolverhampton Street, Willenhall, West Midlands; Matthew Sweef, 6, Upton Avenue, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport; and Kevin P. Wilkinson, 13 Sutherland Grove, Teddington, Middlesex.

An Unearthly Child winners were: Marco Capiello, 2 Yennora Court, Keysborough 3173 Victoria, Australia; Dennis Cattell, 66 Cranbrook Road, Redland, Bristol, Avon; Edward J. Donachie, 44 St. Meddams Street, Troon, Ayrshire; Richard Downs, 40 Beech Avenue, Alfreton, Derby; James Fox, 58b The Crescent, Henleaze, Bristol; Ian Hill, 117 Rendell Street, Loughborough, Leics.; Delrdre B. Kelly, 30 Haseley Road, Handsworth, Birmingham; Magnus McDaid, 110 Springhill Park, Strabane, Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland; Mrs D. Rogers, 12 Oakfields Court, 425 Uxbridge Road, Ealing Common; and 5. Shelf, 12, Torbridge Close, Canon's Park, Edgware, Middlesex.

The winners of *Abslom Daak-Dalek Killer* graphic albums following Issue 159's Spot the Difference competition were: Darlush Alavi, PO Box 2574, Dubai, United Arab Emirates; P.A. Oighi, 27 Anthony Grove, Eison, Gosport, Hants.; Paul Finley, 7 Nicander Road, Mossley Hill, Liverpool; A. Gosling, Heathcliff, West Drove North, Walpole, St. Peter, Nr Wisbech, Cambs.; Paul Hillam, 19, Haycroft Avenue, Grimsby, S. Humberside; Shaun Kitchen, 120 Hirstgate, Mexborough South Yorkshire; Mr R. B. Mason, 63, Anson Road, Holloway, London N7; Iain McCumpha, 76 Glencroft Road, King's Park, Glasgow; Joe Mcintosh, 802B E. 5th Avenue, Mesa, AZ 85208 USA; Joe Pasternak, 445 North Thrd Street, PO Box 304, Burr Oak MI 49030; Richard Perry, 25 Greysteed Close, Chapel Park Estate, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Nicholas Pond, Goodrington, 4 Stoke Ash Close, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex; William L. Richardson, 626 Kenyon Street NW Washington DC 20010 USA; Mr H. K. Robinson, 22 April Close, Bitterne, Southampton, Hampshire; Gerald L. Smith, 6510 San Mateo Street, Paramount, California CA 90723 USA; Richard Stabler, 16524 Baederwood Lane, Derwood MD 20855 USA; Finn Star, 13 Wolmer Gardens, Edgware, Middlesex; Chris Stocks, 11 Webber's Way, Willand, Devon; Ms. Jennie Symonds, c/o Matron's House, Thorpness, Nr. Lelston, Suffolk; Kevin Thomas, 50 Carlin Road, Newarthill, Motherwell.



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Although W.H. Allen promise us their *Doctor Who* schedule remains intact if a little delayed, we are, for the first time in seven years, left without a new Target book to rabbit on about. So it's more golden oldies and more videos this month.

Now, neither you nor the BBC can have failed to realise that releasing uncut *Doctor Who* stories on video is a pretty darned neat thing to do. The sales have been good and as a result, the Beeb now assure us that coming soon (before the end of the year, we hope) will be *The Dominators* and *The Web Planet* for the black and white fans and, in an effort to correct to pretty major mistakes of the past, new versions of *The Brain of Morbius* and *The Five Doctors*.

These last two were released in highly butchered formats a few years back, but never at budget price. I'm not one to speculate (ha ha) but recently CIC Video re-issued the *Star Trek* pilot episode *The Cage* in an uncut colour version, only a few years after issuing the black and white print/colour compilation. Could the BBC be persuaded to make up for all their early mistakes and at some point reissue all their existing videos in episodic and unbutchered versions? Not immediately, of course, but perhaps when a few more old vaults have been expunged and given unto the multitudes. I for one would like to see a complete *Pyramids of Mars* and *Day of the Daleks*. Most important of all, an unedited release of *The Seeds of Death* is needed, even if it would have to be on two tapes. What do you think?

THE MIND ROBBER

Sticking with the videos, let's take a look at the latest two stories to hit the Top Twenty bestsellers lists. *The Mind Robber* is an odd choice to release now, mainly because it follows directly on from the cliffhanger ending of *The Dominators*, out later this year. That aside, I found it a rather enjoyable romp – not only through the worlds of fiction but through the astonishingly successful way the serial survives its production pitfalls.

As background to these old stories has come to light in recent years, so a lot of the magic of old *Doctor Who* has been lost. All credit then to the series producers for coming up with novel ways for replacing the ill Frazer (Jamie) Hines half way through the story and to Derrick Sherwin for writing the scene setting opening part because *The Dominators* was short an episode.

Both of these potential disasters are incorporated so imaginatively and cleverly that if you didn't know the cause, you wouldn't recognise the symptoms. Indeed, Hamish Wilson makes a very endearing Jamie, getting understandably frustrated at Zoe and the Doctor's lack of recognition, and trust. Amongst other

OFF THE SHELF

Gary Russell rabbits his way through the debris of another merchandise bout ...

highpoints of the episodes are the terrifying Toy Soldiers. These were one of my earliest experiences of the programme frightening me as a child, with their eerie clacking walk and relentless chasing. The same goes for Emrys Jones's portrayal of The Mind Master, one moment a cheerful bumbling writer, the next, malevolently trying to kill the Doctor and his friends.

Most spectacular of all are the last five minutes of the opening episode as, in an attempt to escape the White Robots, the Doctor's TARDIS is apparently destroyed leaving a screaming Zoe and Jamie spinning away into space. Great stuff.

THE DALEK INVASION OF EARTH

The Dalek Invasion of Earth is one of those stories that, despite constant screenings in its feature film version, still remains a surprisingly fresh and exciting story. Personally, I think the Robomen look stupid and find it astonishing that in an era of Voords, Sensorites and Menoptera, the BBC really thought that men with waste paper bins on their heads would look at all frightening. I also don't accept for one moment that Susan, this super intelligent, "Avengers type super lady" would ever go off and marry a total nerd like David Campbell. If he's an example of our future's heroes, it's no wonder we were invaded in the first place!

Apart from that, *Dalek Invasion of Earth* is an absolute gem and well worth

every penny. Although it seems on paper that £9.99 for three episodes is a bit of a rip off, that's only fifteen minutes less than the average £9.99 movie. If BBC Video had put four episodes on one tape and two on the second that would seem worse. Perhaps an alternative would be to have put all six on one tape (150 minutes) and charge £12.99 or even £14.99, bearing in mind that for the £19.99 you're paying, you got four extra episodes last time with *The War Games*. Whichever way you look at it, *Doctor Who* fans are finally getting complete, episodic stories on video and we should be thankful for that. Shouldn't we?

Both tapes come in attractive Alister Pearson covers – *The Mind Robber*, being particularly worthy of mention. I look forward to seeing Alister's renditions of the two colour stories that are coming next.

REELTIME NEWS

Still on the video front, Reeltime Pictures are back after a lengthy absence with three more of their *Myth Maker* interviews. Firstly, Victor Pemberton amiably chats away about his involvement with the programme, concentrating of course on *Fury From The Deep*, the Troughton story he wrote and later turned into an excellent novel. My only gripe with this tape is the packaging which, with Reeltime placing it into the vacant Number Eleven slot in the series, uses the cover design of the newer tapes, making it stick out like a sore thumb.

OOOPS





David Banks interview is recorded for the Myth Makers series.

David Banks' tape is the weakest of the three, but nevertheless always remains entertaining. However, David does tend to rabbit on a little too much about his *Cybermen* book and his theories and not enough about his actual experiences of working on the show and, most importantly, *The Ultimate Adventure* stage show, where the tape was recorded. Finally, we have the long awaited and already out of date Colin Baker tape.

Whatever your views on his tenure as Doctor, there is little doubt that Colin is one of the eloquent, charming and all-round most nicest people ever to have worked on the show. All of that, and his terrific sense of humour, oozes out of this interview and Nick Briggs has a very easy and fun time chatting to him. I gather that Reeltime are thinking about doing a series of *Myth Makers* – Updates one day, and I would hope that Colin is the first, so that he can discuss his return to the show via the stage play *The Ultimate Adventure* which was a long way into the future when this was shot.



Both David and Colin's tapes are, as always, preceded by a Myth Runner Tapes short, and both are great in their own way. The David Banks one sees a deliberately naff black and white film being made about the making of the tapes, delightfully parodying itself. The Colin Baker tapes contains a superb, quite lengthy, James Bond spoof, complete with sexist title sequence and theme song. It's quite brilliant.

THE DALEKS

Continuing our look at the earlier Target novels, having massacred *An Unearthly Child* last month, let's go to the other extreme, David Whitaker's *Doctor Who in an exciting Adventure with The Daleks*, based for the most part on Terry Nation's first script for the metal meenies.

Apart from the terrific writing, good narrative style and well perceived characters, there are three other important things about this novel. Firstly, it contains a glass Dalek, suspended in the Dalek City somewhat akin to the Dalek Emperor in *Evil of the Daleks*, a teleplay Whitaker wrote himself. This glass Dalek was in Nation's original script but dropped for cost reasons. I can't help thinking that his novelising of the book and the success with which the Glass Dalek fitted into the scheme of things, especially the Dalek hierarchy, probably inspired the Emperor's appearance in *Evil* quite a lot.

The second thing, and the most immediate impression the book gives is its first person narrative, the whole thing seen through Ian Chesterton's eyes. I'm no great lover of first person books due to the restrictions it puts on storytelling; you get a biased view point and never the whole story. But David Whitaker pulls it off magnificently, mainly due to Ian's (and therefore the reader's) reactions and attitudes to suddenly being confronted by alien planets and alien people – not something that happens everyday.

The third thing is, of course, the story's opening. The book was written in 1964 at a time when no one, least of all publishers Muller, ever thought there would be a whole range of books. Therefore Whitaker has to introduce the four main characters as if they've never met before. So enter the foggy Barnes Common, early winter where Barbara Wright and Susan Foreman have had a car crash and Ian comes to the rescue. Trying to find the missing Susan, they discover that she and her grandfather live in what is apparently a police box on the Common, and the adventure takes off from there.

It was nine years after its first publication that the newly formed Target Books, looking out for a good series of childrens' books, came across the long

out of print *The Daleks*, along with *The Crusaders* and *The Zarbi* and purchased the rights to them. In some way history was made then and those three spearheaded the start of the range. By 1990, *The Daleks* has been published in more different forms than any other *Doctor Who* book, including two versions which show Tom Baker's Doctor on the cover. The first of these was a hardcover UK edition from the mid-seventies by White Lion Publishers (anyone know how to get hold of a copy?) and more recently a German paperback with the cover from *Destiny of the Daleks* stuck on it. We've reprinted some of the many versions below.

Today, *Doctor Who* in an exciting adventure with *The Daleks* remains not just an excellent book, but one of the most important tv tie-in novels of all time – it started a run of novels still going and is always worth a re-reading.

Next time, I'll look at *Mission to Magnus* and *The Keys of Marinus*, but I'll also be mentioning the rest of Season One's novels (all of which I reviewed in this column when they were issued), hopefully some more BBC Videos and a handful of fanzines that recently fell into my lap, including the third excellent issue of *Auton*, definitely the best black and white *Doctor Who* fanzine available today. ◆

For those of you who missed last issue, here's the revised schedule for Target *Doctor Who* books for 1990, courtesy of books editor Peter Darvill-Evans:

June – *Remembrance of the Daleks*
 July – *Mission to Magnus*
 August – *Battlefield*
 25 *Glorious Years*
 (Paperback Edition)
 4–8 new editions of BBC Video tie-in
 September – *Ghost Light*
Cybermen
 (Paperback Edition)
 October – *The Curse of Fenric*
 December – *The Pescatons*
 Novelizations from August onwards are subject to rearrangement, but the plan at present is to release the books in order of original broadcasting.

From the end of 1990, with all but a handful of tv stories published, Target plan to pursue a policy of selective reprinting, as well as publishing new editions of selected old novelisations. This will start with the August 1990 new editions, which will be a selection of the stories being released on BBC Video and, coincidentally, being screened this year on BSB.

Other books for 1991 and beyond will go ahead as previously announced.

DOCTOR WHO MAGAZINE SEASON SURVEY RESULTS

FAVOURITE ISSUE

The Tenth Anniversary Special	32.3%
Issue 150	24.6%
Issue 154	14.3%
Issue 147	7.93%

FAVOURITE FEATURES

Gallifrey Guardian	32.2%
Interviews	17.3%
Off the Shelf	13.9%
Archives	8.7%

FAVOURITE STRIP

<i>Nemesis of the Daleks</i>	69%
<i>Follow that TARDIS!</i>	9.6%
<i>Stairway to Heaven</i>	7.2%
<i>Time and Tide</i>	5.2%

As with the programme itself, your views on *Doctor Who Magazine* proved varied and thought provoking. We've made note of several hundred article ideas thrown our way – enough to keep the Magazine going for at least ten more years.

There's been a change in the status of various sections, with *Gallifrey Guardian* topping the poll (Interviews won last year). Although not in the top five, the comic strip has also gained in popularity, thanks largely to *Nemesis of the Daleks*. More episodes per strip, text stories and a companion have been suggested. Keep reading... You also asked for more photographs – this issue's pin-up centre comes in response to many requests for such an item – more posters and more behind the scenes material... In fact, more of everything! We were overwhelmed with the constructive suggestions and hope to use as many as possible in the future.

One final comment to provoke some debate, perhaps:

"Generally, the Magazine is quite good, but perhaps the price should be put up to something like £1.95 or £2 in order to finance about sixty-four pages with twice as many in colour. I also think that perhaps it should be made slightly more adult. The average readership of the magazine is about eleven by the sounds of it, I'm sick of reading about little kids who write in saying that the best seasons ever are Twenty-Five and Twenty-Six! It is these "Children" who make up your poll majority and have probably never seen any

Who other than these seasons. It also angers me to read about little kids whose favourite Doctor is Syl (sic) McCoy, he isn't a bad Doctor, but can we really compare him to the previous Docs?"

This was written by someone aged fifteen.

Percentages compiled by Paul Smith. Commentary by John Freeman.



Nemesis of the Daleks, storms unsurprisingly to the top of the comics poll. Despite some criticism of the strip, it's gained in popularity this year. *Nemesis* appears in the *Absfrom Daak – Dalek Killer* graphic album, now available from all good bookshops and comic stores, price £5.95 (\$8.95US).







NOSTALGIA

MARCO POLO



Still missing from the BBC Archives, memories of John Lucarotti's *Marco Polo* still linger, as David Richardson discovers . . .

In the early months of 1964 the BBC transmitted a programme that was very special indeed. *Marco Polo* was seven episodes of quality *Doctor Who*, commissioned by producer Verity Lambert to suit the guidelines imposed by the Head of BBC Drama, Sydney Newman. Newman wanted the programme to educate and entertain children, and so this story was one of which he could be proud.

Writer John Lucarotti was contacted by script editor David Whittaker and asked if he would like to contribute a story to the brand new series. "I went to see David and Verity at the BBC," Lucarotti recalls, "and they told me Terry Nation was mucking around with things called Daleks and what did I have in mind? Well, a couple of years previously I had done a fifteen-part radio serial for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation so all the homework was already in my head.

"I suggested the subject (much as I loved him, it wasn't Bill Hartnell's idea). I agreed to send in my storylines and went back to my Spanish hideaway in Majorca. But by episode four's outline I was hopelessly bogged down. I needed to write scripts, to meet my characters, so I phoned David (no easy matter in those days) and told him my problems. 'Start writing' was the reply, and *Marco Polo* came to life."

Waris Hussein was chosen to direct, having previously helmed the series opener *An Unearthly Child*. Barry Newbery, who had also worked on that first story, returned as designer. He faced the gargantuan task of building sections of the Himalayas, the Gobi Desert and Kublai Khan's palace in a tiny studio. "Before I started my designs, I had to research the period," says Barry.

"I had a friend who worked in the British Museum and he suggested a book by Sir Orrel Stein, who was in the Gobi Desert in 1902 as a spy for the British Government. His cover was that

Above: The Doctor (William Hartnell) in the court of Kublai Khan, intent upon retrieving his TARDIS. Marco Polo looks on. Photo © Barry Newbery.

Above right: Watched by Marco Polo (Mark Eden) the TARDIS crew recover from the cold. Photo © BBC.

Left: the persuasive assassin, Tegana (Derren Nesbitt), discovers Chenchu (Jimmy Gardner) has told Susan and the Doctor where Barbara has gone in *Five Hundred Eyes*. Photo © Barry Newbery.

of an archaeologist, and he toured the borders of Russia and came back with photographs of petrified towns which had been covered in sand drifts and eventually uncovered hundreds of years later by the wind.

"Another of the books I read was *Days in the Life of China 1100-1300*, which contained an awful lot of information. There were lots of things I came across I couldn't use. I discovered Kublai Khan had a summer palace, and in the grounds he erected an enormous tent which seated three thousand people. Can you imagine? He also had fresh cherries flown in from Cairo by pigeon."

THE ROOF OF THE WORLD

On a snowy plateau, Susan and Barbara have found the footprint of a giant – but Ian thinks it could just be an ordinary print enlarged by the sun's heat. The Doctor is more worried by a major power failure which has affected the TARDIS – they are without heat, and will freeze to death.

Moving to a lower altitude, they meet Tegana and the Mongols, who are ready to kill them until another man arrives and instructs they be taken to his caravan. In the stranger's tent, they meet a young girl called Ping-Cho, who gives them cups of warm liquid.



POLO: *I fear the liquid is not too warm. But the cold here is so intense it even robs the flame of its heat.*

DOCTOR WHO: *It's an excellent nourishment, sir.*

IAN: *Cold can't affect a flame's heat sir. The liquid boils at a lower temperature because there is so little air up here.*

Barbara is the first to realise that the man is Marco Polo. The year is 1289, and they are on the Roof of the World – a plateau in the Himalayas.

As night falls, Susan and Ping-Cho share a room and become friends. Ping-Cho reveals she is travelling with Polo to Shang-Tu, where she will meet her future husband, who is seventy-five years old.

"I remember feeling very sorry for Ping-Cho. I was around her age myself at the time, and the idea of marrying someone that old seemed horrible." Anne Cooke, Nottingham

In the morning Ping-Cho explains to the Doctor that a war between the Mongol warlord Noghai and Kublai Khan is over. Tegana is an emissary of Noghai travelling to Kublai Khan's court. Ian shows the exterior of the ship to Polo, who has it loaded onto a sled so the travellers can join him.

POLO: *My plan has worked. The strangers and their unusual caravan accompany me to Lop. Our route takes us across the Roof of the World, down into the Kashgar Valley and south-east to Yarkand. Here we join the old Silk Road, along which the commerce and culture of a thousand years has travelled to and*

◀ from Cathay. I wonder what the strangers' reaction will be when I tell them what I propose to do? I shall find out at the way-station at Lop.

At Lop, Polo tells the travellers that he has served Khan for many years, but his requests to be allowed to return home have been denied. He intends to give Khan the TARDIS: "A gift so magnificent that he will not be able to refuse me this time." The Doctor responds with laughter!

Tegana meets a man secretly in the streets of Lop. The man gives him a phial of poison for Polo's water barrels. Tegana plans to steal the TARDIS for Noghai!

THE SINGING SANDS

POLO: *I have taken charge of the travellers' unusual caravan and set out across the Gobi Desert. The journey across this vast ocean of sand is slow and hazardous. To make matters worse, the old Doctor continually shows his disapproval of my action by being both difficult and bad-tempered. For three days now – during which time we have covered no more than thirty miles – I have had to endure his insults.*

Barry Newbery based the set of the desert on the prehistoric landscape he had created for the first story. "I gave my assistant a pair of secateurs and a hawthorne bush and showed him a photograph of a petrified forest. I asked him to cut the bush up and put twigs around the backdrop with big ones at the front, gradually having smaller ones towards the back covering a distance of about eight feet. The director then brought the cart in which we had travelling across the desert, but it obscured the backdrop and our work was never seen! We should have been told beforehand where it was going to be put."

The water supply is scarce and must be rationed. While the Doctor sulks, Ian and Polo play chess.



Tegana reaches the water hole at the end of *The Singing Sands*. Photo © BBC.

TEGANA: *It is a fascinating exercise in the strategies of war. Two equally balanced armies deployed upon a field of battle, and each commander determined to be the one who cries 'Shah mat'.*

IAN: *Shah mat? Oh, check mate.*

TEGANA: *It means the king is dead.*

Susan and Ping-Cho leave their room to see the beauty of the sands in moonlight. They follow Tegana and a Mongol, but see a sandstorm on the horizon – heading their way! As they take cover, the pair hear demonic laughter above the howling wind.

POLO: *It's the wind shifting the sand.*

BARBARA: *It's terrifying.*

POLO: *Not always. Sometimes it's like music being played – the beating of drums and cymbals. I've heard it sound like people talking as they crossed the desert. It can also be a familiar voice calling your name. You're not the only one to be afraid. Travellers of the Gobi Desert have good reason to fear the singing sands, Miss Wright.*

The absence of Tegana, Susan and Ping-Cho is noticed and Barbara panics. However, as the storm subsides the two girls return. Polo says they must resume their journey at first light.

POLO: *Progress today has been good, although we were all very tired after a sleepless night. How can I ever repay Tegana for saving Ping-Cho and Susan? We covered fifteen miles before I gave the order to set up camp for the night.*

Susan is suspicious of Tegana, rightly so – he is outside at the supply wagon, piercing the skins of the water gourds . . .

When Polo hears of the damage, he is convinced it has been inflicted by bandits. They now have enough water for three or four days with rationing – just enough to return to Lop. Ian believes that is foolhardy – the bandits will be waiting. They must head north to a small oasis, but that is seven days away.

POLO: *Have I made the right decision? Each day our progress towards the oasis becomes less. On the first day we covered twenty miles, on the second, fifteen; the third, ten; the fourth day's total was eight. Now on the fifth day we have travelled only two miles before the heat of the sun has forced us to stop. We are nearly exhausted and our situation is perilous.*

As they camp for the night, the last of the water is gone. Tegana volunteers to ride ahead and bring back a supply. Unless he succeeds, they won't last another day!

Tegana reaches the oasis. He drinks his fill, but has no intention of returning to the others . . .

"I remember seeing that scene and thinking 'Big Deal' for an episode ending . . ." David Saunders, London

FIVE HUNDRED EYES

POLO: *What has happened to Tegana? Is he lost? Perhaps he never found the oasis. But in the hope he did, I inched our caravan forward through the night. What misery! A bitterly cold wind swept down from the north and set us shivering as we stumbled on. The poor old Doctor, he's exhausted in his caravan and Susan does what she can to help him. I fear the end is not far off.*

Sleeping in the TARDIS, the Doctor is awoken by a droplet of water. He and Susan collect the precious fluid and share it among the others – the ship has condensation! Polo does not understand, and thinks that the Doctor has been hoarding it all along. At the oasis they find Tegana, who blames his delay on bandits. Barbara suspects he is lying. Polo demands that the Doctor give him the key to the ship.

POLO: *My conscience pricks me! I was adamant – despite the Doctor's protests – that the key to his caravan be handed over to me. Now we journey across this awful desert. And I shall not rest until I see the temple spires of the city of Tun-Huang.*

They arrive at the way station in Tun-Huang. "I'd read that the way stations were all constructed along similar lines," recalls Barry Newbery. "I decided that they would only differ in quality, and used the same set for each episode which saved us an awful lot of money. I would only change the windows, the doors and the floor pattern, and the courtyard outside would be different. Each station would get more and more opulent as they neared civilisation."

Photo © Barry Newbery



Photo © Barry Newbery



Polo tells Barbara of the Cave of Five Hundred Eyes, which is nearby. The history teacher is fascinated.

POLO: *On the walls are carved the faces of two hundred and fifty evil men who lived there. They were called the Hashshashins.*

SUSAN: *Hashshashins?*

POLO: *They were so named because they used a drug called Hashish.*

Ping-Cho has a story of Halagu and the Hashshashins, which she will tell later.

The Doctor is delighted that they will be staying for a while. He will have a chance to repair the ship – he made a second key before handing the original to Polo.

The party gathers in the way station to hear Ping-Cho's story.

PING-CHO: *Gracious maidens, gentle lords
Pray attend me while I tell my tale
Of Ala-eddin, the Old Man of the Mountains
Who by devious schemes, evil designs
And foul murders ruled the land.
No host of arms, no vast array
Of banners served this wicked lord.
They were but few – ruthless, reckless men
Who obeyed his cruel commands.
Thus did he persuade them,
Promising paradise, he gave his followers*

Photo © Barry Newbery



*A potent draught and whilst they slept
Transported them to a vale where streams
Of milk and honey flowed.
Here were gardens and flowers of every hue
And essence. Here, too,
Golden pavilions outshone the sun
And even the start of heaven envied
The bejewelled interiors strewn
With incomparable silks, tapestries
And treasures. Hand-maidens, dulcet voices
Soft of face, attended them, and thus bemused
Did they dwell in this man-made paradise
Until Ala-eddin intent upon some evil deed
Proffered again the Hashish draught
And brought them sleeping to his castle
And we cast out of paradise
Awakening, they cried. Not so
Go abroad, seek out mine enemies
And strike them down. But care not
For your lives. Paradise is eternal
So terror stalked the land for many years
Until the day came mightily Hulagu
To stand before Ala-eddin's lair
For three long years in siege
And thus fell Ala-Eddin and his men.
Now honest hands reap harvests of life
From the soil where death and evil
Reigned. And those who journey
Through the vale are heard to say
'Tis truly paradise today.*

Ian and Susan observe that the Hashshashins gave their name to the English language – assassins. Polo adds that they lived in the Cave of Five Hundred Eyes.

In the outer chamber of that cave, Tegana meets two Mongols, Malik and Acomat. They reveal Noghai's army is marching, waiting to hear news of Tegana's success. Tegana advises Acomat to attack Polo's party on the journey to Shang-Tu – they are all to be killed. Barbara is making her own examination of the cave when she is captured by the Mongols.

Her absence is noticed, and Ping-Cho tells the Doctor of Barbara's interest in the cave. Together with Susan they go to find her, and examine the famous eyes – so lifelike because of an exposed vein of quartz which shines. They find Barbara's handkerchief and call out her name. Susan screams as she sees a pair of eyes move.



Photo © Barry Newbery

THE WALL OF LIES

They find Tegana, who warns them they must leave or face the evil spirits who dwell in the cave. Ian and Polo arrive and discover a hidden door in the rock face. Barbara is saved just in time.

"I have vivid memories that so much of this story was shot in close up; of oriental faces made to look sinister in the flickering lights of Chinese lanterns. It was a style Waris Hussein certainly used for The Tribe of Gum, and no-one is more anxious than I to find out if the same is true for Marco Polo."

Jeremy Bentham, London

Back at the way station, Tegana attempts to turn Polo against the travellers, hinting that the Doctor is able to enter the



◀ TARDIS without the key he surrendered. The travellers enter, Barbara claiming that she followed Tegana to the cave. Tegana refutes this, causing Polo to seriously doubt the Doctor and his friends.

POLO: Poor Susan and Ping-Cho. Yet what alternative had I but to separate them. Now my caravan seethes with suspicion and discontent as we journey south-west. The route takes us to the ancient cities of Su-Chow and Kan-Chow where the Great Wall of Cathay begins. Following the wall, we travel south to Lan-Chow, which lies on the banks of the Yellow River. Here our route swings north and with the river always in sight, we journey towards Shang-Tu.

The Doctor tells his companions that his work on the TARDIS is almost complete. It has taken three weeks, but one more night should do it. His only concern is Ping-Cho, who knows about the duplicate key.

POLO: For the past three days I have followed the course of the Yellow River as it flows north to the small town of Sinju which lies nestled against the Great Wall.

Another way station. The Doctor is seen entering the ship by Tegana, who gleefully informs Polo. The old man is caught in the act, and his duplicate key confiscated.

DOCTOR WHO: Put the key in that lock and you'll destroy the ship, Polo. And then where will your precious Khan be? You need more than a key to open the door of my ship. You need knowledge. Knowledge you'll never possess!

POLO: Tell me. Tell me.

DOCTOR WHO: No - do you understand? I'll let you wreck it first.

POLO: Guards!

(Come in with Barbara and Susan. Ian is dismayed, Polo livid. Polo turns to Ian.)

POLO: Hear witness. I wear the gold seal of great Kublai Khan and by the authority it invests in me, I do hereby seize and hold

your caravan. And be warned. Any resistance to this decree is instantly punishable by death.

DOCTOR WHO: Oh you poor, stupid, pathetic savage.

They continue the journey.

POLO: What a nightmare this journey has become! Our progress is impeded because Tegana, the bearers and I must constantly be on the alert from any signs of trouble from the prisoners, and Ping-Cho's resentment of me only serves to make my task more difficult. But I have succeeded in keeping her away from them by setting up a separate tent for the Doctor and his companions.

In their tent, the travellers now face the frustration of having a perfectly working TARDIS but no way of entering it. Jeremy Bentham savours this aspect of the adventure: "As a youngster, totally caught up in the perilous voyages of Ian and Barbara, my key memory of the story was of seething with suspense. Would they or wouldn't they escape? Back then, no-one knew how long a story would be. As an audience we had apparently watched a one part, a three part, a seven part and then a two part story. How many episodes Marco Polo would span was a mystery. Thus the hub of the suspense was the quest for all four travellers to regain the sanctuary of the ship - hopefully so they could go on and meet monsters like the Daleks again."

Ian decides to make a dash for freedom, planning to leave through the back of the tent and capture Polo. Cutting the canvas with a knife, he stealthily creeps up on their guard. The man offers no resistance when challenged - he has already been stabbed in the back . . .

RIDER FROM SHANG-TU

In an area of the bamboo forest, Acomat and a Mongol are awaiting a signal from Tegana - the waving of a burning torch - which will order their attack. The Doctor, Ian, Barbara and Susan see Tegana preparing his signal, and Ian immediately warns Marco. The Doctor would prefer for them to leave in the TARDIS, but Tegana again sows seeds of doubt in Polo's mind. Ian invents an ingenious plan to fool the bandits by throwing

bamboo stalks into the fire. They will explode with an almighty crack!

In the quiet moments before the attack, Ian tells Polo that they were trying to escape, using him as a hostage. The bandits charge. Tegana kills Acomat, then the bamboo explodes. The terrified bandits flee. "I was at a party for that episode," says Jan Vincent-Rudzki, "and I made everyone stop to watch it. I was fascinated by that scene where the bamboo exploded."

POLO: *At sunrise we buried the dead, broke camp, travelled to the edge of the bamboo forest and out beyond it onto the plain. But, at midday, as we were all tired after the events of the previous night, I ordered a halt at a small wayside inn near the village.*

In return for saving his life, Polo frees the travellers. The TARDIS, however, remains the property of Khan. After Polo has left them, Barbara tells the others she recognised Acomat from the cave. Tegana must have been involved in the attack.

Ling-Tau, a rider from the summer palace at Shang-Tu, arrives. Ping-Cho goes to Polo's tent to tell him, and sees where the TARDIS key is kept - inside his journal. Polo makes her promise to tell no-one. Everyone is amazed that Ling-Tau only left Shang-Tu one day ago.

DOCTOR WHO: *But it's three hundred miles away!*

LING-TAU: *We change horses every league, my lord.*

IAN: *Every league!*

(The courier jingles one of the bells around his wrist)

LING-TAU: *That's why we wear these. To warn the post-house that we're coming, and a fresh horse is saddled and waiting, ready for the next three miles.*

BARBARA: *And you ride without a rest until you reach your destination?*

LING-TAU: *Yes, my lady.*

Ling-Tau presents Polo with a sealed parchment. Khan requires their presence without delay - so they must continue their journey, while their possessions (including the TARDIS) take a longer route.

POLO: *My only concern now is to reach the Summer Palace as quickly as possible. So within an hour we were on the move again, and on the sixth day of our journey the spires of Cheng-Ting could be seen on our horizon. By later afternoon we had arrived at the way station of the White-City, as Cheng-Ting is often called.*

The way station at Cheng-Ting is beautiful, with hanging gardens and a pool of goldfish. Barry Newbery's set was outstanding. "I made a garden with a moon gate, running water and a fish tank. When Waris Hussein came into the studio he rubbed his hands together, jumped up and down and cried 'Whoopee!' That is the sort of thing that a designer will never forget."



Photo © Barry Newbery

The TARDIS is placed in the stables by a man called Wang-Lo. Meanwhile, Tegana is hiring Kuiju to steal it.

As night falls Ping-Cho presents Susan with the TARDIS key. She explains that she doesn't feel she has broken the agreement with Polo as she only promised not to tell anyone its location. Under darkness the four travellers make their escape. Jeremy Bentham continues: "If there was one scene that had my nerves on boiling point, it was the cliff-hanger to episode five. All is going

well. The Doctor has got back the TARDIS key. They are inside, powering up the ship for departure. Susan is crossing the courtyard. It's the end of the story. But no. Out of the shadows steps Tegana. Susan is caught. There is to be no reprieve yet."



Photo © BBC.

MIGHTY KUBLAI KHAN

Tegana forces the travellers to leave the ship, and the Doctor hands the key back to Marco Polo. To save Ping-Cho, Ian says he stole it from Polo's room.

POLO: *A day of hard riding! We left Cheng-Ting at dawn and by dusk had covered forty miles. As this is a densely populated area of Cathay, accommodation is not hard to find and we have stopped for the night at an inn. Our baggage - including the Doctor's caravan - is following on with a trade caravan.*

Ping-Cho overhears Polo telling Ian that he is aware she took the key. The girl decides to leave. When her absence is noticed, Ian goes to search for her while the others continue the journey. He finds her back at Cheng-Ting, but she has been robbed. She ▶



Photo © BBC.

◀ is nevertheless adamant that she will not return and be married to an old man. But there is worse to come: the TARDIS has been stolen!

POLO: *I hope all is well and Ian has found Ping-Cho. Our progress towards Shang-Tu continues to be excellent and we are now beyond the Great Wall, spending the fourth night of our journey at an inn about fifty miles from the Summer Palace.*

Tegana tells Polo that Ian has not gone to find Ping-Cho, but to steal the TARDIS. Polo gives him leave to go back and find them.

Polo's caravan arrives at the Summer Palace, and they are granted an audience with Kublai Khan. They marvel at the beautiful architecture.



Photo © Barry Newbery

POLO: *Kublai Khan has adopted many Chinese customs and methods.*

SUSAN: *Did you notice those beautiful pavilions?*

BARBARA: *Yes, I did, Susan. They're magnificent.*

POLO: *Some of them are made of solid gold.*

DOCTOR WHO: *How large are the grounds?*

POLO: *They're enormous, they have to be to accommodate the Khan's two great passions – hunting and falconry. Do you know his stables contain ten thousand white stallions?*

As Khan enters, the travellers are forced to bow – an action which hurts the Doctor's back. Khan is also afflicted with pangs of old age, and grants that the visitors may ride in state with him. Susan is amused by Khan's frailty, but Polo points out that he is the greatest administrator the world has ever known.

Ian and Ping-Cho have traced the TARDIS to a clearing. Kuiju is there, and Ping-Cho recognises him as the thief who stole her money. They confront him, and he admits he was paid to steal the TARDIS. At that moment, Tegana arrives – his sword drawn, cutting the air before him.

"I thought Marco Polo was slightly boring at the time because it came after two science fiction stories. I remember there was a programme then which was a fore-runner of Points of View and every child on a panel said that they didn't enjoy the historical stories as much. Having said that, I would now say that it is a story I would love to see again – mainly for the historical accuracy."

David Saunders, London

ASSASSIN AT PEKING

The fight is halted by the arrival of Ling-Tau. Kuiju is accidentally killed, and Tegana tries to convince the guards that Ian was stealing the TARDIS. Ling-Tau refuses to pass judgement, and takes them all to Peking.

At the palace, the Doctor is beating Khan at backgammon.

KHAN: *What do we owe?*

DOCTOR: *Thirty-five elephants with ceremonial bridles, trap-pings, brocades and pavilions; four thousand white stallions, twenty-five tigers.*

KHAN: *That's not so bad.*

DOCTOR: *The scared tooth of Buddha which Polo brought from India –*

KHAN: *That?*

DOCTOR: *Yes.*

KHAN: *What more?*

DOCTOR: *All the commerce from Burma for one year.*
KHAN: *The Empress – hide it.*

The Doctor persuades Khan to stake the TARDIS on their next game. Barbara thinks this will solve the problem – Polo will have made his gift, and the Doctor will reclaim the ship. The only problem is Ping-Cho's absence – her future husband is attending



Photo © Barry Newbery

a banquet for six thousand people at the palace tonight in readiness for their wedding tomorrow. Ling-Tau reports that Ian and Ping-Cho are held under guard for trying to steal the ship. The Doctor returns. He has lost the game!

Polo hears Ian and Ping-Cho's case against Tegana, but without further evidence he will not act. He informs Ping-Cho she will be married in the morning, and then taken from Peking.

Barry Newbery recalls the set for Khan's palace: "I used archaic Chinese banners which I had seen in a book. There were lots of Chinese actors in the studio, and they all recognised the signs but none of them had any idea what they meant." Adrian Dawson of Luton adds that "The sets and costumes were very impressive, and would have looked even better in colour. I remember Khan's palace, and one scene began with a camera shot through some ornate grill-work. The camera then tracked around to show the Doctor and Khan playing backgammon."

Tegana ingratiates himself with Kublai Khan. He turns the Emperor against the Doctor and his companions further, and then even implicates Polo. When Polo returns, Tegana tells Khan that he planned to bribe him with the TARDIS to obtain his freedom.



Photo © Barry Newbery

KHAN: *We are distressed and angered by your conduct. We shall think upon it. Also attend us after the banquet, Lord Tegana. We shall discuss the terms of our settlement with Noghai. But we shall guard against you.*

TEGANA: *What have I that mighty Kublai Khan should fear?*

KHAN: *The power to persuade.*

Tegana is surprised.

Later, Ping-Cho is told by the Emperor and his wife that her husband-to-be has died after drinking the Elixir of Eternal Youth! Ping-Cho says she cannot grieve a man she never knew, and asks if she can stay at Khan's court. Khan asks her opinion of the Doctor and his friends, and appreciates her positive reply. He trusts the girl.

The Doctor and his friends try to understand Tegana's motives. They realise he plans to assassinate Kublai Khan so that Noghai's army can launch a successful attack. They must warn the Emperor! Ian overpowers their guard, and they find Marco Polo. Polo does not believe them, until Ling-Tau brings news that Noghai's army is marching. He rushes to the throne room. He finds Tegana bearing down on the Emperor with a drawn sword. Polo goes to Khan's defence and the two men fight.

Stunt arranger Derek Ware choreographed this sequence. "I used to do the action for all of Waris Hussein's stuff," he says. "He did not like action – he preferred love stories and things with depth, but in his early days he always got adventure. He was quite happy to give me a free hand. The duel was between Mark Eden and Derren Nesbitt, who were both young and full of energy. Derren had done quite a lot of movies in the Fifties and had a lot of experience of fight scenes, while Mark was very game and charming to work with. I hear that he arranged a couple of small fights in *Coronation Street*.

"There was very little time to rehearse the fight – perhaps a couple of days. I used scimitars and was going to have a death blow to the back of the head. Verity Lambert over-ruled this – she said it was too gruesome." Kublai Khan's guards rush in and surround Tegana. He seizes a sword and impales himself. With gratitude, Polo returns the TARDIS key to the Doctor, and quickly he and his companions depart.

POLO: *I'm sorry, my lord. But I had to give the flying caravan back to them.*

KHAN: *If you hadn't, eventually the old man would have won it at backgammon. A flying caravan – there's something for you to tell the Venetians.*

POLO: *No, my lord. They would not believe half of what I have seen in Cathay. But what is the truth? I wonder where they have gone. Into the past or the future? Who knows?*

Marco Polo has been adapted into a novel by John Lucarotti, but sadly no film prints exist for any of the episodes. "I vaguely heard a rumour that someone had found something to do with *Marco Polo* – a copy, I think I was told, which I thought highly unlikely but it would have been nice if it were true," concludes John Lucarotti. "I still find the programme's international 'cult' status mind-boggling; certainly it's something none of us back in those early days would have dreamt possible. Three cheers for Sydney Newman!"



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Article by David Richardson. All script excerpts (including untransmitted material – Marco Polo's diary extracts) reprinted with the permission of John Lucarotti. Photograph research by Stephen James Walker with additional material from *In-Vision Magazine*.

MARCO POLO SERIAL D



Photo © Barry Newbery

CAST

William Hartnell (*Doctor Who*), William Russell (*Ian Chesterton*), Jacqueline Hill (*Barbara Wright*), Carole Ann Ford (*Susan Foreman*) with Mark Eden (*Marco Polo*), Derren Nesbitt (*Tegana*), and introducing Zienia Merton (*Ping-Cho*) with Leslie Bates (*Man at Lop*), Jimmy Gardner (*Chenchu*), Charles Wade (*Malik*), Philip Voss (*Acomat*), Michael Guest (*Mongol bandit*), Paul Carson (*Ling-Tau*), Gabor Baraker (*Wang-Lo*), Tutte Lemkow (*Kuiju*), Peter Lawrence (*Vizier*), Martin Miller (*Kublai Khan*), Basil Tang (*Office Foreman*), Claire Davenport (*Empress*).

CREDITS

Written by John Lucarotti. Sword fight arranged by Derek Ware [*Assassin at Peking* only]. Title music by Ron Grainer and the BBC Radiophonic Workshop. Incidental music: Tristram Cary. Story Editor: David Whitaker. Designer: Barry Newbery. Associate Producer: Mervyn Pinfield. Producer: Verity Lambert. Directors: Waris Hussein [except *The Wall of Lies*], John Crockett [*The Walls of Lies* only].

BROADCAST DETAILS

<i>The Roof of the World</i>	22nd February, 1964	5.15pm-5.40pm
<i>The Singing Sands</i>	29th February, 1964	5.15pm-5.40pm
<i>Five Hundred Eyes</i>	7th March, 1964	5.15pm-5.40pm
<i>The Wall of Lies</i>	14th March, 1964	5.15pm-5.40pm
<i>Rider from Shang-tu</i>	21st March, 1964	5.15pm-5.40pm
<i>Mighty Kublai Khan</i>	28th March, 1964	5.30pm-5.55pm
<i>Assassin at Peking</i>	4th April, 1964	5.30pm-5.55pm



LIVING IN THE PAST

Sunlight filtered through towering ferns and cycads, dappling the sides of the large, blue box which stood in the clearing. Insects buzzed industriously from flower to flower. Stepping from the TARDIS, the Doctor breathed in clean, fresh air and sighed to himself. Seventy-five million years away from car exhausts and aerosol sprays. Definitely the best place to be.

With a barely perceptible rustling of leaves, a young male tsintaosaurus stepped into the glade, its green and orange skin blending almost perfectly with the background. The Doctor smiled in greeting, but the reptile merely retreated into the foliage, snuffling.

The time traveller looked around in wide-eyed, eager interest. A cursory glance at the vegetation told him when he was – the upper cretaceous period of the mesozoic era. The types of reptile and mammal told him where he was – somewhere in the region that would one day be known as Mongolia.

High above him, a small, winged, reptilian form glided across the deep blue sky. A corner of the Doctor's mind classified it as a dsungaripterus, and noted that since it lived on shellfish he must be near a coast of some kind. The rest of his mind wondered whether to

pop back and get a bucket and spade, but after a few seconds he dismissed the thought.

Time to find Ace, he decided.

Through the trees he could see the range of small hills where he remembered leaving her. Considering the state of the TARDIS, he was lucky to have ended up on the same planet, let alone within sight. Well, the walk would do him good.

Within ten minutes he had left the forest, and was strolling jauntily across a dusty plain dotted about with trees and clumps of tough, stringy grass. He tipped his hat to a beaked protoceraptors, and five minutes later chased a scavenging velociraptor away from a partially concealed nest of football-sized eggs. The hills didn't seem to be getting any closer, and the heat of the young sun forced him to remove his coat and put up his umbrella as some sort of shade.

He hoped Ace appreciated the trouble he was going to.

In the cloudless sky above him, the dsungaripterus circled aimlessly.

The hill, which seemed to have been retreating just as fast as the Doctor was walking, suddenly decided to wait and let him catch up. Within a few minutes the ground started to rise. The Doctor took off his cravat and mopped his brow. He stopped a moment and sniffed gustily. Ah! that smell! No mistaking it, there was a beach around somewhere.

Just as the Doctor opened his mouth for a few choruses of 'Oh I Do Like To Be Beside The Seaside', the ground opened up beneath his feet and he fell, shouting, into a suspiciously regular pit. His opened umbrella caught around the edges of the hole, and he swung in space for a few seconds, disorientated. He glanced down to check how far away the ground was.

Five sets of rotating teeth gnashed violently together scant inches below the soles of his feet.

The creatures were blue, worm-like, and about twice the size of the Doctor. Dholes, he recognised them. They didn't belong here. Not by several thousand light years. If he hadn't been in such a worrying position, that would have worried the Doctor.

One of the dholes lunged for his dangling foot. The Doctor neatly manoeuvred his leg out of the way, and stepped directly on the upcoming snout. Propelled by the advancing creature like a bullet from a gun (or, thought the Doctor, like a rat from a drainpipe) he popped out of the hole and leapt to safety.

"Thanks for the ride!" he said with a shaky smile, and stepped rapidly away.

He could see the blind faces of the dholes peering over the edge of the pit,

vainly trying to search out his form. As he remembered, they were brainless creatures with a primitive form of biological laser guidance. He'd better be going. Mopping his brow, he turned away...

... And walked straight into a bulky alien who was standing directly in front of him.

"Excuse me," said the Doctor automatically. He looked up into the alien's face, trying to find some recognizable feature, like an eye, which he could latch on to. Its flesh was soft and pulpy,

looking remarkably like a bag of peaches left out in the sun, and it seemed to be dressed in the tattered remains of what had once been a fairly basic survival suit. Gill-like openings on the side of its neck pulsed wildly, erratically. It backed away from the Doctor, raising lobster-clawed hands in supplication, warning, or some other, more obscure, meaning. Dangling from chafed wrists, heavy manacles swung in the fresh, sea-tainted breeze.

Thunder rolled around them like a prowling animal.



"Don't worry yourself," said the Doctor gently, "I'm not going to hurt you."

He reached out butterfly-feelers of mental energy, probing the language centres of the runaway's brain, carving for himself a mental Rosetta stone with which to communicate better. He repeated his reassurance, this time in the bleats and drummings of the alien's tongue.

"Help me..." the runaway pleaded eventually. It swayed on its feet, whether through pain, fear, exhaustion or hunger the Doctor couldn't tell.

"I want to help," he replied, knowing as he did so that yet again he'd been suckered into helping the underdog.

"Who are you running from?" In reply the alien walked the few steps to the top of the hill and, keeping low against the skyline so as not to be seen, made a sweeping gesture with one pair of arms, encompassing the view. The Doctor followed, and looked.

On a better day the Doctor would have been impressed, what with the surf crashing against the shingle, the majestic mountains and the wide, calm sea. A better day would have been any day before the building work started. Small, untidy boxes that seemed barely larger than the TARDIS lay scattered in heaps and mounds, as if some careless child had knocked over a box of building bricks. Each had a door and two windows. Each was painted in a drab grey or brown. Alleys and roads meandered past them like imbecilic snakes. There was no rhyme or reason to them, no plan or poetry. They were houses for beings with no sense of beauty. And poised around and over them the Doctor could make out the vast insectile bulks of earthmovers, cranes and drilling derricks frozen into menacing poses. Muffled sounds of pile drivers drifted up to the Doctor's disbelieving ears.

As if to emphasize the scene, another peal of distant thunder echoed and re-echoed around the hills.

"A building site," he gasped with fire in his eyes, "In somebody else's past! They're building a town! They're colonising!"

The alien nodded, and the heavy manacles clinked together with a dull chime. The Doctor looked closer at the building site, and this time he could make out ant-like figures swarming over the half-completed buildings, all of them linked by glinting threads of chain.

"And they're using slave labour to do it," he continued, scandalised. He didn't know what was worse: colonising another race's past or using slaves to do it. His mind raced. The dholes! Vermin carried unwittingly through space by the alien colonists? Not unlikely.

On the distant building site, three bulky uniform-clad figures were running up the slope towards the hill, the escaped slave and the Doctor. Orgrons? Volkrii? Whatever they were, they meant bad news.

"This is all very vexing," the Doctor murmured to himself. "I keep getting



the feeling that I'm being distracted by trivia while there's something more important going on elsewhere."

Thunder roared again in the distance, but instead of diminishing, it increased, drowning out the sounds of wildlife and the din from the building site below. The three security guards slowed to a halt and turned to look west, across the flat plain, which the Doctor had been walking across only hours before. The Doctor turned as well, and felt his eyes widen in surprise.

Clouds of dust were rising to block out the light of the young sun. At their base the Doctor could make out thousands of small, black dots, dots that seemed to be moving and getting larger. He squinted into the sun, trying to make out details. Beside him, the escaped slave had stood, regardless of

being spotted by the guards, and was gazing out across the plain in amazement.

The dots were taking on substance now, gaining shape and solidity. They looked like... they were... dinosaurs, thousands of them, pounding mindlessly across the dusty plain. Ankylosaurs, tyrannosaurs, bactrosaurs. Huge engines of destruction, sweeping implacably across everything in their path. Towards the building site.

Perched on the head of the leading Alioramus, smiling and waving up at the Doctor, was Ace. Her jacket billowed in the wind and her hands clutched a makeshift halter which looped around the lizard's snout.

The Doctor smiled, and waved back. What else could he do?

At the site, figures were running away in all directions. Slaves and guards, captives and captors, all were equal now. Within a few moments, the nascent town was empty.

The wave of flesh swept onward, lumbering but unstoppable, and the Doctor laughed, knowing what was to come. As the herd of creatures reached the fringes of the site the Doctor cheered and threw his hat into the air. Clouds of dust obscured the devastation, and when they dispersed, the site wasn't there anymore.

Thunder died in the distance. Twisted shards of metal that used to be cranes groaned and collapsed in balletic slow motion. There wasn't a wall intact or a road that wasn't buckled and cracked. As the Doctor mopped his brow, amazed at the scale of the destruction, the escaped slave fell laughing and cheering to ground, its eyebrows unfurling in blue and green spirals.

"Magic, innit Professor?"

The Doctor turned. Ace stood there, breathless but radiant.

"Very impressive. Do they roll over and let you tickle their stomachs too?"

"Only the ones without those big spiny things on their backs. Do you want to know how I did it?"

"Leave me in suspense," said the Time Lord, smiling.

The Doctor appraised his companion for a long moment. She returned his gaze defiantly.

"I couldn't let them do it, Professor. They were going to make it look just like Perivale."

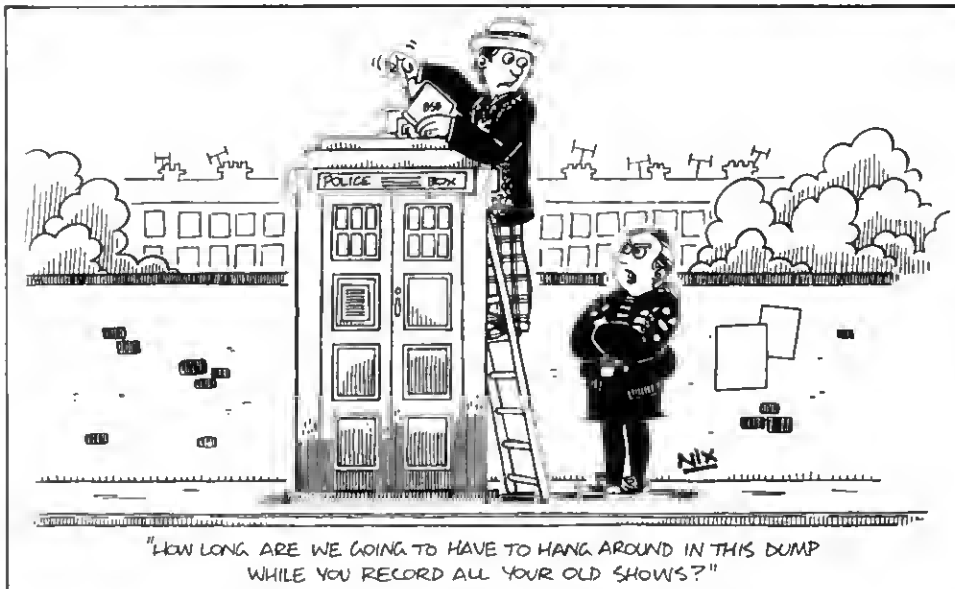
"I know," said the Doctor wisely. "I know."

Side by side they headed for the distant TARDIS, picking their way through the huge footprints and dinosaur droppings that covered the plain. Behind them, the Doctor's new friend waved, and set off to collect the rest of his people, now freed.

"But next time," the Doctor murmured, "Try and find something more subtle."



YOU ON WHO



Write to: You on Who, *Doctor Who* Magazine, Arundel House, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DX. We read ALL your letters, even if we can't print them all! We're sorry, but personal replies are IMPOSSIBLE due to the number of letters received. Letters may also be edited. Full addresses are printed only where requested and letters are printed only where full addresses are received.

We're sorry the Sophie Aldred article has been delayed again – she's been too busy working to write it! – but I hope our special cover and pin-up makes up, in part, for that. Our interview with Elisabeth Sladen is now in, and will appear next issue as promised.

RIDICULOUS RESULTS

I read the Season Poll results (Issue 160) with interest but I have to comment on the ridiculous results in the "Favourite Doctor" category. Exactly how anyone can vote for Sylvester McCoy as their favourite Doctor is beyond me, but then given the average age of your readership (eighteen, I believe) I don't suppose we can expect them to know any better!

Most of your readers are obviously too young to remember the respective eras of the first three Doctors (when stories had intelligible plots and respectable viewing figures) and therefore seem to have voted for Sylvester in a fit of post glossy

Season Twenty-Six hyperbole. Have they forgotten the pantomime of Season Twenty-Four? The debacle of Season Twenty-Five? The stories of Season Twenty-Six? This does not make what I call a "Favourite Doctor". Let us not forget that there were twenty-three years of *Doctor Who* before Sylvester McCoy, ninety percent of it better written, directed and performed. Maybe next year your readers will consider more carefully when they vote in this category – or not vote at all.

David Chandler,
Enfield

You weren't alone in your shock at the result, David, but I hardly need point out that it's because Sylvester's fans bothered to vote at all that he won the category, very closely followed by Tom Baker – that must at least show some enthusiasm for him from the readers. Despite miserably short seasons and a time slot against Britain's most popular soap opera, Sylvester has proven extremely popular as the Doctor, as the majority of our postbag has consistently indicated for some time.

You don't have to like the result – readers' David Jeffs and David Hartnup conducted a poll of fifty people that put

Sylvester in least favourite position. However, no reader was barred from entering the DWM poll and while we still live in a democracy, I'd be the last person to advise people not to vote when they're given chance. . .

BUYING WHO

The problem with another Sylvester McCoy and Sophie Aldred doing another season is that in order to make overseas sales of future episodes feasible they'd have to do a minimum of forty episodes. At the BBC's current rate, that means another three years. America buys blocks of forty episodes and Sylvester's done forty-two, so he'd have to complete another block of forty before they'd buy again. It's questionable whether either of the two would readily commit to tying up so much working time over the next few years.

The only exception the BBC or an independent company – even more tied by financial constraints – would be likely to make more would be in a case where the current Doctor was the only one recognised by certain audiences. Looking at the current team's ratings there's no way that can be the case. Personally I'd love to see another McCoy season or (pre-

ferably) two, but I fear we've seen the last of him.

Guy Clapperton,
London

VERY WISE. . .

Have the BBC given up on one of their best selling shows? I don't think so. Recent broadcasting changes in Britain (including the introduction of new channels and funding changes) have thrown the entire television industry here into a state of confusion. The fate of *Doctor Who* may be important to us, but for the BBC it's currently just another symbol in a very complex equation, balancing budgets and producing a wide and varied range of programming at the same time.

Whilst recognising the BBC's lack of funding, it might be "very wise" of the legendary 'Sixth Floor' to wake up to the financial value of *Doctor Who*, to help those all-important budgets. The contribution the programme already makes through overseas sales and BBC Enterprise product must be enormous. Surely that's argument enough to continue to make the show. . .

Rod Breegan,
London

NO EXPENSE SPARED?

The Dalek Invasion of Earth has been released on a double tape for £19.99. But *The Seeds of Death* and *The Talons of Weng-Chiang* both have six episodes like *Invasion* but are both on a single tape for £9.99? Surely the BBC don't need to put it on two tapes.

I would buy it, but the price is a little too much to spend when it should be less. Fair enough, *The War Games* had ten episodes and had to be released on two tapes. But why *The Dalek Invasion of Earth*? Were the episodes longer then?

David Hartnup,
Peterborough,
Cams.

*Tony Reynolds of Coventry was also angry at the double tape release of *Invasion* – "The Seeds of Death and The Talons of Weng-Chiang are six episodes long and those stories came out on one tape," he points out. "Does this mean all six episode stories will be a double tape set? If so, I will forget buying them!"*

Check Off the Shelf for more comments on the prices.

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◆ EVENTS ◆

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COLLECTORS' CORNER

Following complaints about our pricing of some items, *Collector's Corner* has adopted the following 'Availability Scale': ★Currently available ★★Generally available from specialist dealers ★★★Rare but available from specialist dealers ★★★★You'll be lucky ★★★★★Almost Unheard Of!



Dalek Rolykins
Manufacturer: Louis Marx
Year: 1965
Original Price: 1/- (5 pence) each
Availability: ★★★ Mint, boxed.

There was a time when Dalek Rolykins could be bought in almost any high street store. Now they are harder to find. I had a Rolykin (in fact I still do have it) that I had found in a jumble sale when I was about four years old. It had no arms and eye but I treasured it. I made some appendages out of matchsticks and kept it safe in a small home-made box. One day my brother accidentally broke off one of the arms and helpfully tried to fix it for me with Polystyrene cement. Unfortunately this caused the small plastic toy to self destruct and melt, gunging the ball bearing up with molten plastic and giving the Dalek a distinctly slumped look. I never forgave my brother for that!



Doctor Who Super 8mm Films
Manufacturer: Walton Sound and Film Services Ltd
Year: 1977
Original Price: Full film: £133.00 (8 reels), £16.00 (1 reel)
 2 Reels, Abridged film, Colour/Sound: £16.00 each reel
 2 Reels, Abridged film, Black & White/Silent: £6.00 each reel

Availability: Full film: ★★★★★
Reels: ★★★★★

The prices relate to both films, *Doctor Who and the Daleks* and *Daleks: Invasion Earth 2160AD*. It is worth pointing out that the collectability of 8mm films has changed over the years. During the Seventies, projection equipment was available, and video was not, so the films would have been bought for showing. Today, the films are both available on video at £9.99 and the 8mm films are only likely to be sold to collectors and not for viewing purposes.

Back in the days of yore when men were men and video had not been thought of, a system of home entertainment grew up called 'Home Movies'. For a vast sum of money, your father could take three minutes or so of film of you on your holiday, or in the garden which, when developed, could be shown again and again in the comfort of your own home. Premise number One: You would want to watch the films again and again. Premise number Two: You had the skills of a qualified film editor to repair and reconstruct precious moments that had been ground into so much plastic by the projector.

The two Dalek films of the Sixties were available on the Super 8mm system. For an incredibly large sum of money you could own all eight reels of the films, but if you were a cheapskate then you could settle for just one small reel in black and white, without sound. Most people thought that there was little point as the films were rubbish anyway.

Doctor Who Data Printer.
Manufacturer: Dymo
Year: 1978

Original Price: 91 pence
Availability: ★ Complete with packaging and badge.
 Why is it that everyone goes through a phase of labelling everything they own with a Dymo? Those self adhesive strips onto which you can emboss your name, your address or indeed any message of your choosing seem to have been around since the Ark. In fact, I suspect that Noah had his address on a strip on his umbrella handle. This item falls firmly into the 'stick Doctor Who on it and we'll sell more' category of merchandise.

COLLECTORS' OWN



In addition to building full size models of Zygons and Davros, Steven Morrison from Lanarkshire, Scotland has built this Dalek based on Raymond Cusick's original conception of the actual creatures for *The Daily Worker* (now *The Morning Star*) back in 1963. The illustration appears in *The Early Years* by Jeremy Benham. Photo: Steven Morrison.



Doctor Who Bathroom Tiles

Manufacturer: Pictiles Ltd

Year: 1983 (Illustration dates from much earlier, 1975-1979)

Original Price: £15.00 (Set of 9 tiles)

Availability: ★★★

Judging by the merchandisers, everyone goes through a phase of wanting one's hero staring down at you from either wallpaper, bedspreads or clothing. The problem with some of these phases is that they pass very quickly and if you were unlucky enough to have your bedroom decorated with *Doctor Who* wallpaper then you are stuck with it until you can be bothered to redecorate. With the *Doctor Who* tiles the problem is tenfold. At least with wallpaper you can paint over it (a la *Adrian Mole*) but with bathroom tiles... "Dad, can you redecorate the entire Bathroom again please?" – it only took a month to do in the first place!



◀ **TARDIS Easter Egg,**
Manufacturer: Suchards
Year: 1982

Original Price: unknown

Availability: ★★★★★ Complete with egg and transfers intact

Not many people know that a TARDIS Easter Egg was produced. This is mainly due to a fundamental design flaw which meant careful positioning of the cardboard cut-out Peter Davison made it appear he had a large flash or lightning protruding from his crotch. Once this was realised, the eggs vanished from the shelves quicker than copies of the latest *Doctor Who* video. A TARDIS Easter Egg has not been released since.

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Dalek Construction Kit.

Manufacturer: Sevans Models

Year: 1984

Original Price: £11.95

Availability: ★★ Unopened, unmade kit

When opened, the Construction Kit consisted, not so much of a disassembled Dalek, but more of a pile of assorted bits of plastic, mesh, paper and wire. With perseverance and a degree in mechanical engineering it was possible to build something which resembled a Dalek but which on closer inspection bore more relationship to a leaky battleship. It is rumoured that the BBC Visual effects department now use the Kit to provide 'detail' on the models for *Red Dwarf*.

Collector's Corner compiled by David J. Howe.
Matrix Data Bank returns next issue.

EPISODE GUIDE

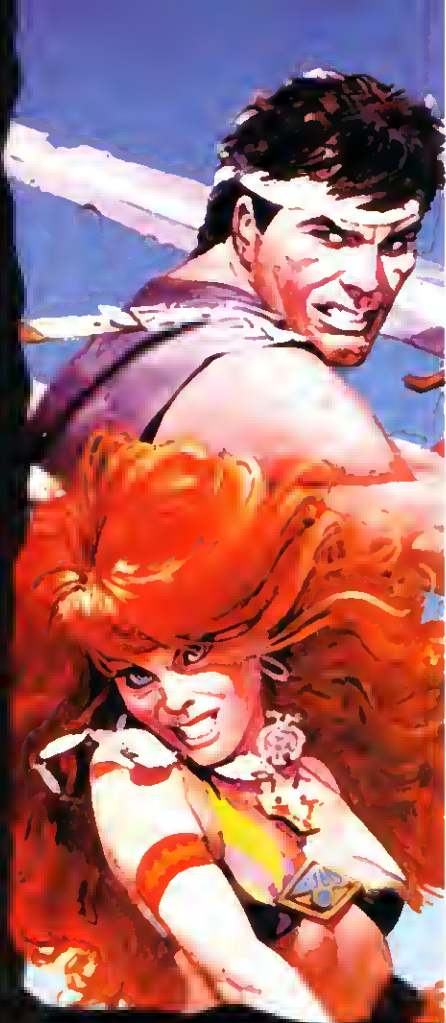
SEASON 24: SYLVESTER MCCOY



Code	Story Details	No. of Episodes	Novellised by	DWM REFERENCES			Original transmission dates (First and Last Episodes)	Notes
				Archive	Nostalgia	Flashback		
7D	TIME AND THE RANI by Pip and Jane Baker Dir: Andrew Morgan Prod: John Nathan-Turner S.Ed: Andrew Cartmel	4	Pip and Jane Baker				7.9.87 28.9.87	The Doctor (Sylvester McCoy) regenerates after the TARDIS is attacked by the Rani (Kate D'Mara). The writers wanted shots through the eyes of the Tetraps to be split into four, indicating their strange sense of vision. Richard Gauntlett played Urak.
7E	PARADISE TOWERS by Stephen Wyatt Dir: Nicholas Mallett	4	Stephen Wyatt				5.10.87 26.10.87	All studio story with Richard Briers playing the Chief Caretaker, Howard Cooke, Pex.
7F	DELTA AND THE BANNERMEN by Malcolm Kohl Dir: Chris Clough	3	Malcolm Kohl				2.11.87 16.11.87	Ken Dodd played the Tollmaster in this location story, recorded at Barry Island. Don Henderson was Gavrok, Hugh Lloyd, Gordonwy.
7G	DRAGONFIRE by Ian Briggs Dir: Chris Clough	3	Ian Briggs				23.11.87 7.12.87	Mel leaves, Ace (Sophie Aldred) joins. Tony Selby played Glitz, Edward Peel, Kane. The 'melting face' used at the end of the story was the first use of such a complicated effect on <i>Doctor Who</i> .

NOTE: Producers (Prod) and Script Editors (S.E.) are only listed once until they change. **BBC Archives:** All episodes exist in broadcastable format for stories from 4A onwards. **DWM:** Letter prefixes indicate a reference to a Special (e.g. A/S89 – Anniversary Special 1989).

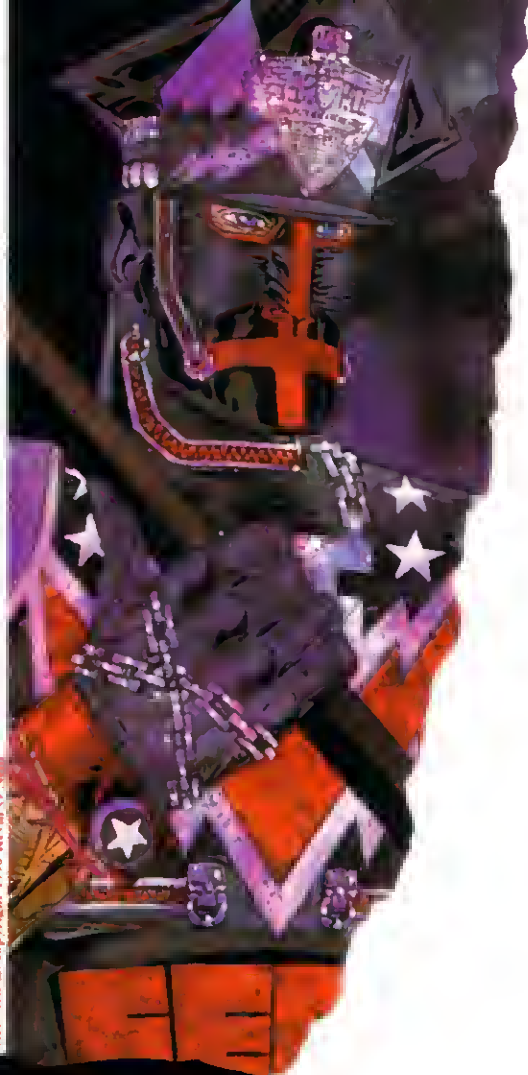
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